

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02932 221939Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 TRSE-00 ( ISO ) W  
-----050706 230315Z /70

R 221845Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4680  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2932

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, ES  
SUBJECT: WARNING TO U.S. PRIESTS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2404

1. ANOTHER TWO AMERICAN PRIESTS APPEAR TO BE IN TROUBLE WITH THE  
GOES FOR ALLEGEDLY BECOMING INVOLVED IN DOMESTIC POLITICS.  
THE TWO, FATHER JOHN K. HALBERT AND FATHER RON MICHEL, WORK IN  
SANTA ANA WITH URBAN POOR PARISHES.

2. THE PRIESTS RECEIVED A SUMMONS ON JUNE 17 (FRIDAY) TO REPORT  
TO IMMIGRATION FIRST THING MONDAY MORNING. WHEN THEY DID THEY  
SPOKE TO IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR COL. SANTIVANEZ, WHO READ THEM  
AN OFFICIAL WARNING TO CEASE ANY QTE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES UNQTE  
THEY MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN. SANTIVANEZ GAVE NO DETAILS BEYOND  
CITING THE SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION AS A GOVERNMENT QTE SECURITY  
SERVICE UNQTE.

3. THE PRIESTS WERE ASKED TO SIGN A PAPER ACKNOWLEDGING THE  
WARNING. THEY REFUSED TO DO SO SINCE THEY BELIEVED THE  
DOCUMENT'S LANGUAGE IMPLIED ADMISSION OF GUILT.

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02932 221939Z

4. COMMENT. THE PRIESTS AND THEIR WORK IN SANTA ANA ARE  
WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. AN EMBASSY  
CONTACT WAS SHOWN THE CONFIDENTIAL IMMIGRATION FILE. HE  
IDENTIFIED THE SOURCE OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST THE PRIESTS  
AS AN ANSESAL (SECRET SERVICE) DENUNCIATION OF THEIR QTE  
SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES UNQTE. THE ANSESAL REPORT WAS

SAID TO DEMAND THE PRIESTS' EXPULSION FROM THE COUNTRY.  
THE FORMAL CALL-IN BY SANTIVANEZ IS PROBABLY THE OPENING  
MOVE IN THE PROCESS AND THIS QTE FIRST AND LAST WARNING UNQTE  
PLOY HAS BEEN USED IN PREVIOUS EXPULSIONS FOR POLITICAL  
REASONS. THE PRIESTS' REFUSAL TO SIGN COL. SANTIVANEZ PAPER  
DID NOT ENHANCE THEIR CHANCES.

LUBENSKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HARASSMENT, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CLERGYMEN, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SANSAS02932  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770223-0940  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 SAN SALVADOR 2404  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2070658  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WARNING TO U.S. PRIESTS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, CASC, ES, (HALBERT, JOHN K), (MICHEL, RON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7d81e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009